



## PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PDC FINES LIBRARY COMMITTEE AND ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR FILING REPORTS LATE**

**Olympia** – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Mike Connelly, issued civil penalties after finding that a local ballot measure committee and northeast Washington elected officials violated of state Public Disclosure laws during brief enforcement hearings held today in Olympia.

**Dick Gormley, Fire Chief of Spokane Co. Fire Dist. 10**, was fined \$250 and found to have used public facilities to support a ballot measure. Chief Gormley violated state law by authorizing and directing public money to be spent on “Vote Yes” messages that appeared in a flyer, a newsletter, and the District’s website urging passage of Proposition 1, a November 2004 General Election local ballot measure.

A civil penalty of \$250 was assessed against **Richard Pearce**, a city council member for the City of Moses Lake. Pearce was fined for failing to timely disclose income, real estate, and other assets on his annual Personal Financial Affairs Statements for calendar years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003. Pearce was also found in violation of state law for failing to timely file contribution reports during his 2003 re-election campaign. Chairman Connelly also ruled that Pearce failed to file copies of his campaign reports with the Grant County Auditor as required by state law.

**The Friends of the County Library Committee**, was found in violation of state law for failing to timely file campaign finance reports. The committee formed in 2002 to oppose Proposition 1 which would have dissolved the Stevens County Rural Library District. The Committee originally registered under a reporting option that relieved them from filing reports but also limited the committee's activity. Chairman Connelly found that the Committee officers failed to timely notify the Commission and start reporting when their campaign activities increased. The Committee was fined \$500 with \$250 suspended for failing to timely file campaign reports and properly change reporting options.

In a separate hearing, Chairman Connelly found 14 elected northeast Washington officials had not timely filed an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement (Form F-1). State law requires elected officials and certain state appointed officials to file an F-1 with the Public Disclosure Commission by April 15<sup>th</sup> reporting financial activity for the preceding year.

Connelly stressed the importance of filing reports that disclose personal financial interests and holdings.

"These reports afford the public tangible proof that officials are acting in the public interest and not for their private gain," Connelly said.

A letter reminding each official of his or her obligation to file was sent during the first week of May 2005. On June 4, a second letter with an opportunity to pay a civil penalty and forego an enforcement hearing was sent.

Government officials from northeast Washington who were assessed a penalty at the brief enforcement hearing were:

**John Butorac**, Director for the Northport School Dist. #211, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

**Earl Murdock**, Director for the Eastmont School Dist. #206, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

**Charles Maxwell**, City Council Member for the City of Clarkston, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

**Theresa Sanders**, Commissioner for the Pend Oreille Hospital Dist. #1, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

**Jerome Schwartzman**, Director of Palouse School Dist. #301, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$200.

**Leona Adams**, Director of Loon Lake School Dist. #301, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$300.

**Michael Flanigan**, City Council Member for the City of Spokane Valley, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

**Brett Neely**, City Council Member for the City of Okanogan, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

**Richard Mark**, County Commissioner for Spokane County, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

**Timothy Taylor**, City Council member for the City of Davenport, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

**Jeffrey Grass**, Commissioner for the Grant Co. Fire Protection Dist #7, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$300.

**Frank Miannecki**, Commissioner for the Grant Co. Port Dist. #2, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$300.

**Morgan Picton**, Commissioner for the Chelan Co. Fire Protection Dist #5, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$500.

**Kory Heindselman**, Director for Okanogan School Dist. #105, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

Officials found in violation at the hearing will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.

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